Act.27
DON'T MOVE!
GREATER KANTO PUBLIC WELFARE MINISTRY NARCOTICS CONTROL DIVISION!
!
!
TAK TAK
!

WHY YOU ...!
!
grabb
whok
WHAM
UGH ...
WHA
DAM- MIT ...
HAL!
<WHAT THE F#$! ARE YOU DOING?!>

...
IS YOUR SHOULDER ALL RIGHT?
...
HAL...
OH, OKAY ...
HUSH
...
ANYWAY IF YOU'D LIKE, I HAVE SOME.
DON'T WANT ANY. GET LOST.

WHAT'S HAL'S PROBLEM, ANYWAY?
YUP.
HE'S BEEN LIKE THAT EVER SINCE THE RYUGEN INCIDENT IN YOKOHAMA.
THANKS TO YOU, WE'VE BEEN ABLE TO RECREATE THAT DAY PERFECTLY!
"SWITCH" IS A WORD WITH SOME POWER, THAT'S FOR SURE!
THE KEY TO "SWITCH"... IS IN KAI'S MEMORY...
KURA-BAYASHI ...
HAL.
!
...

YOU TOO, KAI.
YES SIR!
KA-TUNK
SORRY TO THROW WORK AT YOU ALL OF A SUDDEN, BUT WE'VE PICKED UP A FEW DAYS OF STAKEOUT WORK FROM SECTION 2, AND I WAS THINKING OF GIVING IT TO YOU GUYS.
STAKE-OUT ...?
WE'VE BEEN WATCHING THE RESIDENCE OF A FOREIGN BROKER FOR ABOUT TWO WEEKS NOW.
HE'S GOT A CONNECTION WITH THE BOSS OF THE LOCAL RIGHT-WING EXTREMISTS
THIS MAN, SADATOSHI YAMAMOTO. HE OCCASIONALLY CONTACTS THE BROKER AND PURCHASES LARGE QUANTITIES OF DRUGS.
WE HAVEN'T FIGURED OUT THE EXACT TIMING OF THE EXCHANGE.
SO I'D LIKE TO SEND YOU IN TO GATHER THE LAST FEW PIECES OF INFORMATION WE NEED TO ARRANGE THE BUST.
BOTH OF YOU, THAT IS.
!

WHA
...
UM... OKAY.
...
!
HAL.
YOU'VE GOT TO TRUST YOUR PARTNER AND LOOK OUT FOR HIM.
...
I DON'T KNOW WHAT HAPPENED, BUT YOU'RE BOTH NCD AGENTS.
THERE'S SOMETHING GOING ON BETWEEN YOU AND KAI, RECENTLY.

THAT AIN'T IT.
GOOD WORK ON THE STAKE-OUT!
WE'LL TAKE IT FROM HERE.
YOU GUYS ARE LIFE-SAVERS!
!
WHAT HAVE THEIR MOVE-MENTS BEEN SO FAR?
WELL...
WE KNOW THEY GENERALLY MEET TWICE A WEEK.
IF THE PATTERN HOLDS, THEY'LL DEFINITELY MOVE TODAY.
OH, AND LOOK OUT FOR THIS.
February
S M T W T F S

SOME OF THEIR GUYS MIGHT'VE NOTICED WE'RE ONTO THEM.
LITTLE NEIGHBOR-HOOD LIKE THIS, ANY NEW CAR STICKS OUT.
SO TRY TO AVOID USING A CAR IF YOU POSSIBLY CAN.
BEFORE THEY CATCH ON FOR SURE...
I THINK IT'D BE BEST TO JUST CONFIRM THE PATTERN AND FALL BACK TO REPORT IT.
OKAY?
...
OKAY, UNDER-STOOD!
ALRIGHTY, WE'RE COUNTING ON YOU!
...
bow
GLAD WE COULD HELP.
ALL RIGHT, LET'S DO THIS!
shf
whoosh
HAL?
I THINK ONE PERSON'S PLENTY FOR THIS STAKE-OUT

I'LL BE IN THE CAR. IF ANYTHING HAPPENS, CALL ME.
BUT THEY SAID WE SHOULDN'T USE THE --
NOTHING'S GONNA HAPPEN.
...
TWO WEEKS AGO
...I WOKE UP IN BED.
I REMEMBER GOING TO THAT HOUSE WITH AKAMA WITH THE RIGHT ARM OF THE RYUGEN.
...
BUT I DON'T KNOW WHAT HAPPENED AFTER THAT...
KA-
TUAK

HE EVEN INJURED HIS ARM PROTECTING ME.
APPARENTLY HAL WAS AT THE SCENE, TOO, BUT HE WON'T TELL ME ANYTHING ABOUT IT.
Yokohama Mother, Son Kidnapped, Murdered
Five
I ONLY SHOT FOUND dead
OUT WHAT HAPPENED
...FROM READING THE NEWSPAPER AND SEEING THE NEWS.
HE'S RIGHT.
GOOD-FOR-NOTHIN'.
tak
tak
tak
THERE'S NO WAY HE CAN TRUST A PARTNER WHO DOESN'T EVEN REMEMBER BEING SAVED.
...

WHAT A TRANS-PARENT STAKE-OUT.
CHAK KA-
!
!
YOU THINK YOU'RE GONNA BE ABLE TO GET THE DROP ON US?

DON'T FOLLOW ME ANY-MORE, KURA-BAYASHI.
WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON?
IF I FOLLOW IT, HE'LL ...
IT'D BE BETTER TO DIE.
WHAT I WAS LOOKING FOR ALL ALONG TURNS OUT TO BE RIGHT UNDER MY DAMN NOSE...
DIE?
shf
PLUS...

SO WHAT THE HELL AM I SUPPOSED TO DO?
tokk
tokk
SEE, YOU CAN'T JUST PARK YOUR CAR HERE LIKE THIS.
WHY DON'T YOU ROLL THAT WINDOW DOWN A LITTLE MORE.
!
YOU'RE A COP, RIGHT?
GET OUT.
WE'VE GOT A WHOLE *PILE* OF QUESTIONS FOR YOU.
...

WUBB
AAAAH!
SO WHEN THE GUYS FROM SECTION 2 SAID THAT SOMEBODY WOULD NOTICE US, THEY WERE TALKING ABOUT YOU, WEREN'T THEY, NARITA?
Ha ha ha ha
WELL, IF I CAN PIN THIS CASE DOWN, WE'LL BE STOPPING ILLEGAL WEAPONS, DRUGS, AND IMMIGRATION. THREE BIRDS WITH ONE STONE.
BUT I REALLY THOUGHT THEY HADN'T NOTICED ME...
hmmm
WHAT'S THAT?
?
OH, NOTHING
ANYWAY, YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE BUSTED IN WITH YOUR GUN LIKE THAT!
Hmph
I THOUGHT IT'D BE FUNNY, THOUGH...
(Your reaction, I mean)
BUT ANYWAY ...

SO I KNEW YOU GUYS WERE ALREADY HERE.
I TRIED NEGOTIATING WITH THE LANDLADY TO RENT THIS ROOM OUT, BUT SHE JUST SAID, "YOU'RE WITH THE POLICE? AREN'T THEY ALREADY THERE?"
OH, I SEE.
I WISH WE COULD'A GOTTEN IN HERE A LITTLE QUICKER.
THIS IS A GOOD SPOT YOU CAN SEE THE TARGET PERFECTLY.
HUH?
HAL...
WHERE'S YOUR NORMAL PARTNER?
STILL, AREN'T STAKEOUTS NORMALLY DONE IN TEAMS OF TWO?
?!
HAAH
???
...
GULP

Wdd-ddddnh
plopp
TWITCH
!!
HAAALLL!!
HE HATES ME!
I WAS TOTALLY GOOD FOR NOTHING IN THAT CASE SO I'VE JUST GOTTA GET IT RIGHT THIS TIME!
mmph mmph
wh-sh
OKAY! I GET IT! SO LOWER YOUR VOICE!
Bad Kai! Bad!

I'M DOING MY BEST TO GET HIM TO TRUST ME
... sniffle...
OH CRAP. I GAVE HIM THE WRONG CAN. GUESS THE BOY CAN'T HOLD HIS LIQUOR...
I was gonna drink it myself...
THERE, THERE ...
wsssh
LET'S SEE THIS CASE ...

IT'S BEING TREATED AS A MYSTERY CASE WITH CAUSES UNKNOWN.
THE STORY'S GETTING BEAT TO DEATH IN THE MEDIA, BUT THE NCD'S SPUN IT SO WELL THERE'S NOT A HINT OF THEIR INVOLVEMENT.
WAIT, THIS WAS THAT HORRIBLE BUST THAT THEY'RE STILL GOING ON ABOUT IN THE NEWS!
YOU'RE TELLING ME YOU GUYS WERE THERE?!
YEAH ...
HAL GOT HURT TRYING TO PROTECT ME! BUT I CAN'T REMEMBER A THING!
JUST WHAT I'D EXPECT FROM HIM.
IT'S HAPPENED EVER SINCE I WAS A LITTLE KID. IT'D JUST GO AWAY...
AND NOW HAL HATES ME!
!
YOU SAY YOU CAN'T REMEMBER ANYTHING...
... ABOUT THE INCIDENT ?
I REALLY AM GOOD FOR NOTHING!
WELL THAT'S OUT OF YOUR CONTROL ...

Sobb
HAALLL...
NARITA?
IT'S NOTHING, NEVER MIND.
WELL, NOW YOU'LL JUST HAVE TO GET IT TOGETHER, WORK HARD, AND EARN HIS TRUST BACK...
...HM?
HUH?
OH CRAP, I THINK SOMETHING'S GOING DOWN.
AGAIN WITH THE NOISE!
Hush, willya?
OH NO!!

WH-WHAT?
NARITA.
ting
HEY! THAT TICKLES, YOU LITTLE ...!
WHA ...WHAT?
eeek
tickle
I'M SORRY, BUT THIS WILL JUST TAKE A SECOND.
...UH, KID?
WHOOSH
OTHERWISE THE HUNTER WILL BECOME THE HUNTED, YOU GET ME?
TIMES LIKE THIS, YOU HAVE TO STAY COOL AND CALL FOR BACKUP!
GRABB
WHAT?! NOW HOLD ON JUST A DAMN MINUTE!
...I'M GOING TO SAVE HAL.
GACK

KID!
Empty
I HAVE TO SAVE HAL...
CHA-CHING
WE DON'T KNOW HOW MANY PEOPLE THERE ARE DOWN THERE.
GLARE
...BUT SOME OF THEM HAVE GUNS, WHICH IS BAD NEWS.
!
Buh
...AND I DON'T HAVE TIME TO WAIT FOR BACKUP!
!
Whoah.
shyo
ETO!
WHAM
DASH

KRK
DAMMIT, EVERYTHING'S GOING TO HELL!
ALL OBSERVING AGENTS, MOVE IN!
HUH?
IT'S AN EMERGENCY, ALL RIGHT...
...A DRUNK NCD AGENT IS HEADING TOWARD THE SCENE ALONE!
WE'RE MAKING THE BUST NOW!
MAKE SURE YOUR BODY ARMOR'S NICE AND TIGHT!

WHUMP
GUH
UGH
WHOKK
CLICKK
PARKED IN A TINY LITTLE LOT, USING A CAR THAT'S NEVER BEEN IN THE NEIGHBOR-HOOD BEFORE.
UGHH
DID YOU ACTUALLY THINK WE WOULDN'T NOTICE, IDIOT?
WHUM
ALL RIGHT, GENTLE-MEN!
GET THE DRUGS AND HEAD OUT THE BACK!

WELL?
SO, YOU CAN JUST SPILL YOUR GUTS—HOW MUCH DID YOU MANAGE TO SNIFF OUT ABOUT MY LITTLE GROUP, HERE?
IF YOU'RE OUT HERE ALL ON YOUR OWN, THAT MEANS THERE WON'T BE ANY BACKUP FOR A WHILE.
BUT THAT'S NO REASON NOT TO TAKE PRECAUTIONS.
TWITCH
!
HOW 'BOUT IT, MR. COP?
DON'T LUMP ME IN WITH THE DAMN COPS.
klik
BASTARD!
YOU DRUG-ADDLED GANGSTER SON-OF-A-BITCH!
WHAT'D YOU SAY?

I'M A LITTLE FUZZY ON THE WHEREABOUTS OF THE PISSANT COPS, AT THE MOMENT.
SMAKK
!
JERKK
grabb
BLAM
SLUMP
KA-KLIK

FREEZE!
!
<YOU GUYS UNDER-STAND JAPANESE?>
IF YOU RUN, I'LL SHOOT. HELL...
I MIGHT SHOOT EVEN IF YOU DON'T RUN...
!!
KA-CHAK
!
HAL!
BLAM
KIANG
KIANG KIANG

I'M NOT KIDDING.
DON'T MOVE.
WHOOB
UGH!
FLUMP
NUBB
DAMN KID!
WHA
GETTING A LITTLE FULL OF YOURSELF, EH?
IF YOU SHOOT HAL, YOU'RE DEAD.
klik
KA-

!
KLUNK
DON'T MOVE!
THIS IS THE POLICE!
!
POKE
!
!

BANG.
HAL, I'M SO GLAD YOU'RE OKAY...
shf
smak
wobble
wibble
SORRY WE KEPT YOU WAITING!
...
hupp
shffle
shffle
woah
HAL...
YOU...

...GOD-DAMNED GOOD FOR NOTHING!!
Shake Shake Shake
NO IDEA HOW MANY PEOPLE ARE IN HERE, AND YOU JUST BUST RIGHT ON IN. DID THE IDEA OF CALLING FOR BACKUP EVEN OCCUR IN YOUR TINY FREAKING MIND?!
BUT THAT'S NOT ENOUGH, NO, THEN YOU CALL THE COPS?!
B-BUT HAL...
IF SOMETHING HAPPENED TO YOU WHILE I WAS WAITING FOR BACKUP ..
SNIFF
SNIFF
WAAAAH!
I'D JUST...
TWITCH
huh
WHA

BOOOM
HEY, BEARD-FACE. DID YOU GIVE HIM SOMETHING TO DRINK?
JUST A LITTLE CHU-HAI...
BUT I GUESS YOU COULD CALL IT [illegible] OR AN ACT OF GOD... hahaha
PAT! PAT
AND NOW YOU'RE HERE TO TAKE CREDIT FOR OUR WORK, AS USUAL!
MMPH I can't feel God
USING KAI TO WALK IN AND SNATCH IT OUT OF OUR HANDS, EH?
AND JUST LIKE ALWAYS, YOU'RE SHOOTING YOUR MOUTH OFF.
WHAT?
I WAS JUST STRUCK BY THE KID'S ENTHUSIASM AND CAME IN HERE TO BAIL HIM OUT.
SERIOUSLY, YOU THINK WE'D RUN A BUST LIKE THIS?
NOT LIKELY. THIS WAS A RESCUE MISSION.

HE SAW YOU BEING TAKEN AWAY AND DIDN'T STOP TO ASK. JUST DASHED RIGHT OUT.
YOU'D THINK THERE'S A LIMIT TO BEING CRAZY, BUT HE EVEN GRABBED MY GUN BEFORE HE LEFT.
BUT PUTTING HIS LIFE ON THE LINE TO GO SAVE YOU? I CAN'T HELP BUT LIKE THE KID.
THERE AREN'T MANY PEOPLE WHO'D THINK SO MUCH OF SOMEONE AS NASTY AS YOU ARE
!
FRIENDS ARE HANDY.
YOU SHOULD MAKE UP WITH HIM QUICK.
WE WEREN'T ...

grabb
...WE WEREN'T FIGHTING IN THE FIRST PLACE.
YOU'RE A HANDFUL, KID.
YOU'VE GOT TO TRUST YOUR PARTNER AND LOOK OUT FOR HIM.
FRIENDS ARE HANDY. YOU SHOULD MAKE UP WITH HIM QUICK.
...
EVERY-BODY SAYS THE SAME DAMN THING.
sighh...

IF YOU SHOOT HAL, YOU'RE DEAD.
I'M NOT GIVING UP ON THE SWITCH.
BUT UNTIL I FIND OUT WHICH IS MORE IMPORTANT TO ME...
UNTIL I GET THAT ANSWER ...
shf
...I'M CHANGING MY PRIORITIES A LITTLE.
THAT'S ALL.
APPARENTLY THEY PATCHED THINGS UP!
BUT THE MEGURO POLICE PICKED UP THE CAGE, AND KAI'S TOTALLY HUNG OVER!
ALSO HAL'S TOO TIRED TO COME IN, SO I GUESS HE'S TAKING A VACATION DAY
WHY DOES THIS HAPPEN TO US?
DOOOM
Sectio
One

Act.28

HUFF
HUFF
PLISH
HUFF
HUFF
HAH
Intelligence Section
rihgg
歌舞伎町

HELLO, THIS IS THE GREATER KANTO PUBLIC WELFARE MINISTRY NARCOTICS CONTROL DIVISION.
HELP ME...
I JUST DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO...
WHA ...?
IT'S SEITO KANZAKI FROM BLACK FALL...
HE'S DOING DRUGS AND I CAN'T GET HIM TO STOP.
ガーナ
hice
BLACK... FALL...?
I'M SORRY, MAY I ASK YOUR NAME?
...
I'M KASHIWAGI ...
MO...
FLASSH
SKREEEEE
ugh
!

WHA-...
-PPENED?
MS.-...
-SHIWAGI
?
fsshhhhh
MS. KASHI-WAGI?
...
SEITO KANZAKI FROM BLACK HOLE...
"BLACK HOLE..." MAYBE IT'S THE NAME OF A SHOP?
Hmmm
Ugh, my eyes
TAK
TAK
TAK
OR SOME KIND OF TEAM?
I'M PRETTY SURE THEY HAD A HOMEPAGE
A FRIEND OF MINE TOOK ME TO A SHOW, ONCE.
TAK
WAIT! YOU IDIOT, YOUVE GOT IT WRONG!
IT'S "BLACK FALL"- "FALL," NOT "HOLE"!
Outta my way! Grr
TWITCH
!
...

THEY'RE A POPULAR INDIE BAND IN THE KANTO AREA.
BUT NONE OF THE MEMBERS ARE NAMED SEITO KANZAKI...
LOOK
BLACK FALL.
BLACK FALL
IT WOULDN'T BE WEIRD FOR AN INDIE BAND THIS BIG TO HAVE A PRETTY LARGE ROAD CREW FOR A CONCERT.
MAYBE IT'S ONE OF THEM...
YOU'RE WASTING YOUR TIME.
hmmm
SURE, MUSICIANS GET INVOLVED IN DRUGS A LOT, BUT THE MORE POPULAR A BAND GETS...
..THE MORE CRAZY THE FAN PRANKS BECOME, AND THE MORE LIKELY RIVAL BANDS ARE TO SABOTAGE THEM.
!
WHA

shf
...
THE WAY SHE HUNG UP DURING THAT PHONE CALL, THERE WAS NO WAY THAT WAS NORMAL.
I THINK WE OUGHTA LOOK INTO IT.
...
C'MON.
Sigh
THERE'S NO QUESTION THAT SOMETHING HAPPENED TO THAT INFORMANT.
FINE, FINE. I'LL LOOK INTO THE PHONE ISSUE.
YOU JUST GO CHECK OUT THE BAND.
BUT IF IT TURNS OUT TO BE NOTHING, YOU STOP YOUR INVESTI-GATION.
ting
GOT IT!
!

grinn
OH, I WON'T LET IT BE FOR NOTHING.
EVERY DAY'S JUST A HUGE SUCCESS.
SINCE IT'S THE COUNTDOWN TO OUR MAJOR LABEL DEBUT AND ALL.
WE'RE JUST THANKFUL SO MANY PEOPLE ARE SHOWING UP.
YOUR LAST FOUR DAYS AS AN INDIE GROUP, EH?
OH, HE'S IN THE GREEN ROOM.
SPEAKING OF WHICH ... HOW'S SAEKI?
THANK YOU!
WELL, I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO YOUR SHOW TODAY!

SHAKE
SHAKE
...
HE ALWAYS GETS LIKE THIS BEFORE A SHOW.
TWITCH
!
...
SWAPP
C'MON, YOU KNOW THE STAFF'S UNDER STRICT ORDERS NOT TO LET ANYONE EXCEPT THE BAND IN HERE.
THERE'S NO NEED TO WORRY.
ANY-WAY ...
sighh
IT'S ME.

THE SHOW'S ABOUT TO START.
...
shf
WE NEED YOU TO TURN BACK INTO THE KAIDO SAEKI EVERYBODY KNOWS AND LOVES.
SMAK
!
grab
GULP
THEY'RE ALL WAITING TO HEAR YOUR VOICE.
YEAH, I KNOW ...

MIKA ?!
You're a mess!
GRRRR
Myl
I JUST... BARELY GOT TICKETS.
IT WAS A SERIOUS STRUGGLE FOR THE LAST TWO.
(very serious)
Milady
BLACK FALL'S ANNOUNCED THEY'RE GOING TO A MAJOR LABEL...
...SO THERE'RE JUST A FEW MORE INDIE GIGS LEFT
WELL DONE!!

THIS PLACE IS PACKED!
whoah
YEAH, THEY'RE REALLY POPULAR, ESPECIALLY ...
MURMUR MURMUR
!
...THE VOCALIST, KAIDO SAEKI.
GRAB
SAEKI?
UM MIKA, YOU KNOW WE'RE HERE FOR WORK RIGHT?
Hey, you're stretching it
YANK
YANK
DOESN'T MATTER! WE MIGHT AS WELL ENJOY THE SHOW AS MUCH AS WE CAN!
!
HERE THEY COME ...

AAAAHH
YEAAAhhh
IT'S OUR LAST FOUR DAYS.
CHUPP
AND YOU'RE GONNA FOLLOW US TO THE END !!
...
GULP

LISTEN TO THIS !!
BUZZ BUZZ
Twitch Twitch
!!
THIS IS...

THE REAL THING.
KAIDO ROCKED! CONCERTS ARE THE BEST. I'M GLAD WE CAME!
...
HEY, ARE YOU LISTENING?
HM? OH, YEAH...
THIS IS NO TIME TO BE IMPRESSED WITH THE SHOW! I CAME HERE FOR WORK. WORK!
WHAM
MIKA, WILL YOU WAIT HERE FOR ME FOR A SEC?
HUH? OSHI!

ZOOM
HEY, WAIT!
YOU CAN'T JUST–
OH, THEY'RE BACK IN THE DRESSING ROOM, BUT...
WHERE DID THE BAND MEMBERS GO?
HEY!
WHAT'S THE COMMO-TION?
KA-TUNK
!!
LIKE I SAID, THIS AREA IS OFF-LIMITS TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC!
JUST LET ME SEE HIM!

WHA
THE CONCERT WAS AMAZING!
PLEASE, LET ME HELP OUT ON YOUR STAFF!
!!
I'M SORRY, BUT WE ONLY HAVE A FEW MORE SHOWS LEFT.
HUH?
PLEASE! I'LL DO ANYTHING, JUST LET ME HELP!
C'MON, YOU GOTTA LEAVE NOW!
PLEASE!
SURE, WHY NOT?
WHA?
!

NO POINT IN SENDING AWAY SOMEONE WHO WANTS IT THAT BAD.
BUT, SAEKI ...
ACTUALLY ...
WITH THE BIGGER AUDIENCES WE'VE GOT A LOT OF WORK TO GET DONE.
AND WE'RE OBVIOUSLY SHORT-HANDED.
TNK TNK
huh
!
SO YOU START TOMOR-ROW.
PATT
SHF
TALK TO THE OTHER STAFF MEMBERS AND THEY'LL TELL YOU WHAT TO DO.

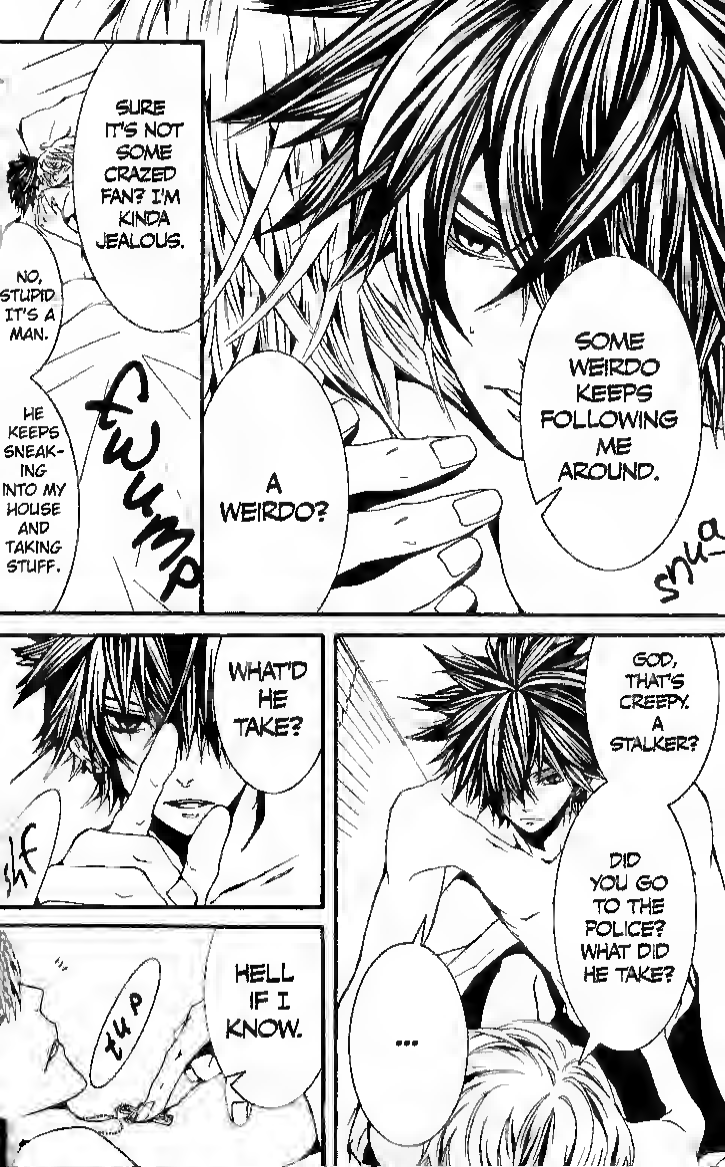
...
WHAT'S YOUR NAME, KID?
I'M...
I'M KASHI-WAGI...
UH...
MY NAME IS...

SHINJI KASHI-WAGI.
...
ALL RIGHT, THEN.
SHINJI KASHIWAGI IT IS.
SHIP
SLAKK
KASHI-WAGI...?
KASHI-WAGI...
WE'LL LOOK FORWARD TO YOUR HELP.
shf

gripp
THANKS.
Man! oh man
shf
...
ALL RIGHT. I'M IN.

Act.29

HEY...
rustle
WHY DON'T YOU EVER GO HOME?
...
IT'S... IT'S TOO DANGEROUS RIGHT NOW.
HM?
stuff


SURE IT'S NOT SOME CRAZED FAN? I'M KINDA JEALOUS.
NO, STUPID IT'S A MAN.
HE KEEPS SNEAKING INTO MY HOUSE AND TAKING STUFF.
FWUMP
A WEIRDO?
SOME WEIRDO KEEPS FOLLOWING ME AROUND.
WHAT'D HE TAKE?
HELL IF I KNOW.
GOD, THAT'S CREEPY. A STALKER?
DID YOU GO TO THE POLICE? WHAT DID HE TAKE?
...

BUT IT WAS SOMETHING PRECIOUS
...THIS IS A NICE CROSS.
I LIKE IT.
THANK YOU.
I'LL TREASURE IT.

I LOVE YOU, BABY.
HM?
WHAT?
I CAN'T HEA—
KAIDO ?!
C'MON, LISTEN!
CHIK
!
DAMN ...
WHY'RE YOU YELLING ?
LOOK!
TAPP
TAPP

I GOT THE FEELING THAT SOMEONE WAS AROUND THE FRONT DOOR, AND WHEN I LOOKED
THIS WAS FOLDED THERE.
...
hmph
sliP
!
DASSH
KAIDO, IS THAT ...?
shf

WHAM
...
KRUMP
...DAMMIT!
IT'S HIM.
WHAT? THE STALKER ?
HE FOUND ME.
KAIDO ?
SORRY, BRI. I GOTTA GO.
WHAT ?!

NO!
KA-TUNK
I WON'T BE COMING BACK.
AND NOW THAT HE'S FOUND ME HERE...
Kaido Saeki, Have you found it yet?
RIPP

WHAT? YOU DON'T KNOW ANYTHING?
E-heh...
UH, YEAH...
I WAS JUST SO BLOWN AWAY BY THE SHOW LAST NIGHT..
I JUSY HAD TO GET IN ON THIS.
YOU DON'T HAVE ANY EXPERIENCE DOING STAGE WORK AND YOU WERE BEGGING TO DO IT ANYWAY?
FINE, FINE. ALL RIGHT... DO YOU KNOW WHAT A "ROADIE" IS?
GLINT
JUPP
SOME KINDA STREET PEOPLE?
MIXING BOARD?
SE?
LINE LEVEL?
HELP ME OUT HERE, HE'S A TOTAL NEWBIE.

SO, HOW LONG HAVE YOU GUYS BEEN WORKING FOR THIS BAND?
MOST OF US WERE SENT FROM THE AGENCY THAT REPRESENTS BLACK FALL.
SO WE HAVEN'T BEEN HERE LONG, NECESSARY THAT THERE'S A CERTAIN BASIC LEVEL OF KNOWL-EDGE REQUIRED
AS FAR AS STAFF MEMBERS THAT HAVE BEEN HERE SINCE THE BAND STARTED
I'M SORRY, I DON'T KNOW ANY OF THOSE WORDS BUT I'LL DO WHATEVER ODD JOB THERE ARE
WELL, YOU'VE GOT DETERMI-NATION, SO DON'T WORRY..
DO YOU REALLY NOT KNOW ANYTHING?
HEY, ROADIES!
???
TAKE
STOP SLACKING!
OH, AND YOU...
!
TIING

UH, YEAH ...
ZOOM
AND?
VA-VOOM
STAFF ONLY
ARE YOU THE KID WHO FORCED HIS WAY ONTO THE STAFF AFTER YESTERDAY'S SHOW?
WHAT CAN YOU DO?
HUH?
UH, WELL...
HEY, ASUKA...
umm
umm
I MEAN, IF YOU WERE ON YOUR KNEES, BEGGING TO BE LET ON, IT MEANS YOU'RE INTERESTED IN THE BAND OR THE MUSIC, RIGHT?
When
BE RIGHT THERE.

THE OLD GUY IS MR. KARIYA, FROM THE RECORD LABEL. THE GUY WITH HIM IS MIIKE, WHO'S ON GUITAR.
MIIKE'S THE DE FACTO LEADER OF THE BAND, AND ASUKA'S HIS GIRLFRIEND.
OH, OKAY...
whisper
THAT ASUKA
SHE'S BEEN WITH THE BAND SINCE THE BEGINNING. YOU DON'T WANT TO CROSS HER.
HUH ...?
DOES THAT HAPPEN A LOT? BAND MEMBER'S GIRLFRIENDS BEING ON STRAFF, I MEAN...
YEAH, INDIE GROUPS HAVE THEIR FRIENDS AND GIRLFRIENDS HELP OUT A LOT, SO...
ALL RIGHT, ROOKIE, I'VE GOT A JOB FOR YOU.
AND IT'S REALLY IMPORTANT.
IT'S IMPORTANT ...?
STAFF ONLY
AND HIS MAJESTY'S BACK.
tup
tup
tup
skuff skuff
skuff skuff
UB

FIND KAIDO SAEKI, AND BRING HIM BACK HERE.
IF YOU SCREW UP, YOU'RE FINISHED.
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUH ...
DAMN, WHAT IS THIS ?!

SAEKI?
ARE YOU OKAY?
huff
huff
THIS WEIRDO SHOWED UP ALL OF A SUDDEN AND...
THAT LOOKS PAINFUL.
dash
I'LL GET SOME DISINFEC-TANT!
NO, FORGET IT!
!
JUST... STAY WITH ME...

OH, SAEKI ...
...I'M SCARED.
FWUMP
HE WANDERS ?
HE'LL WANDER AROUND TO THE HOUSES OF VARIOUS GIRLS JUST TO AVOID GOING HOME.
SOMETHING LIKE THAT. MIIKE'S ONLY GOT EYES FOR ASUKA, BUT SAEKI'S THE COMPLETE OPPOSITE.

SO THAT'S WHY WE HAVE TO FIND WHICH GIRL HE'S WITH.
Sasaki
WE'LL JUST GIVE THIS A TRY...
...
ドドドドド
WAIT, SO... HOW'RE WE GONNA FIND HIM ...?
flip
AND AS USUAL, HE DOESN'T PICK UP.

WE'LL JUST HIT UP ALL OF HIS FIVE OR SIX GIRLS. IT'S A LOT, BUT WE'LL FIND HIM EVENTUALLY.
Here!
Yoko 090 - xxxx - xxxx
Sanae 090 - xxxx - xxxx
Aki 090 - xxxx - xxxx
Kyoko 090 - xxxx - xxxx
Eri 080 - xxxx - xxxx
Yumi 070 - xxxx - xxxx
!
SO WE'LL CALL THE GIRLS, ASK WHERE HE IS, AND GO GET HIM BEFORE THE SHOW.
hmph
HIS... "RE-SERVES?"
WE'LL GET A NIBBLE IF WE CALL ALL THE CELL PHONE NUMBERS OF HIS CURRENT "RESERVES."
kipp
WELL, THAT'S THE KIND OF GUY HE IS. WHAT'RE YOU GONNA DO, EH?
NOT THAT I CARE AT ALL, OF COURSE.
I MEAN, REALLY, DON'T YOU THINK?
hmph

I MEAN, HE MAY BE A PLAYBOY AND CHRONICALLY LATE, BUT WE GET TO HEAR HIM ON STAGE SINGING.
LISTEN TO THIS!!
...
GULP
HEY ...
?
...
...YEAH OKAY
KASHIWAGI... YOU DON'T HAPPEN TO HAVE, LIKE...A SISTER?
OKK

I SURE DO.
SHE'S EIGHT YEARS OLDER THAN ME.
Grin
!
OH, OKAY.
OH, NO, THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT. ANYWAY, YOU'VE GOT A SISTER ...
WELL, GOOD LUCK WITH SAEKI.
THAT'S TOO BAD, HAVING A SISTER SO MUCH OLDER THAN YOU.
Heh
SORRY, SHE'S MARRIED, SO I CAN'T REALLY INTRODUCE YOU.
DID HE SEEM RELIEVED? AM I JUST IMAGINING THINGS?
NO, THESE GUYS WOULD KNOW ABOUT HER...

...THE GIRL NAMED "KASHIWAGI."
tik
chatter
chatter
SAEKI'S STILL NOT HERE YET?
I SENT THE NEW GUY TO BRING HIM BACK.
WHAT IF HE–!
IT'S NOT HIM.
WHAT THE HELL?!
WHY'D YOU GIVE SUCH AN IMPORTANT JOB TO HIM?!

SHINJI KASHIWAGI ONLY HAS ONE SISTER, AND SHE'S EIGHT YEARS OLDER THAN HIM, HE SAID
!
SAEKI'S ALWAYS LATE, DON'T FREAK OUT ABOUT IT.
HAP
ANYWAY, IT'S ALL OVER.
AND THAT WASN'T OUR FAULT ANYWAY.
chatter
whisper
whisper
...
YOU OUGHTA JUST FORGET ABOUT IT, MR. BAND-LEADER.
!
Argh!

IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR KAIDO, HE ALREADY TOOK OFF SOMEWHERE! IDIOT!
CHAKK
!!
WHO'S THIS?!
ZING
...
sniffle
THIS TIME, FOR SURE ...
Beep
FIVE DOWN. THERE'S JUST YUMI LEFT.
Yuko 090 —
Sakae 090 —
090 —
Kyoko 090 —
Yumi 090

br rr iih ng
!
...WHO IS IT?
UM... THIS IS KASHIWAGI WITH THE BLACK FALL TOUR STAFF...
OH, KASHI-WAGI, RIGHT ...
HE'S HERE.
REALLY? OH, THANK GOOD-NESS!
I'M COMING RIGHT OVER TO PICK HIM UP!
yay
fsss SSSSSHH
bee
SAEKI?
KREEK

ffffffssssssshhhh
fffffsssssshhhh
YUMI.
WHAT IS IT?
...DO YOU HAVE IT?
...
...I'LL GO GET IT.

HERE YOU ARE.
fsssshh
...
...
fsssshh
...HE SAID HE WAS COMING TO PICK YOU UP.
GULP
HUPP
KREE
I KNOW.

HI, I'M KASHIWAGI FROM THE TOUR STAFF.
IS SAEKI...
DID YOU COME ALONE?
THERE WASN'T, LIKE, A WEIRD MAN OUT THERE?
UH, NO, NOT THAT I NOTICED ...
SAEKI! HE SAYS THE STALKER'S GONE!
... STALKER?
fwish

DOONE
UH, OKAY
UH, SO BY "STALKER," DID YOU MEAN...
...
ALL RIGHT, LET'S GO.
!!
HE'S THE GUY TRYING TO KILL ME.

Act.30

...
VROOOM
CAN I ASK YOU A QUESTION?
UM...
...
THE GUY TRYING TO KILL YOU, IS HE...
ABOUT THE STALKER.
IT STARTED A FEW DAYS AGO.
... SURE.

I WISH IT HAD BEEN A CRAZED FAN-GIRL, REALLY.
THE HARASS-MENT'S WORSE WHEN IT'S SOME GUY I DON'T EVEN KNOW.
YESTER-DAY...
...HE FINALLY MANAGED TO SLASH ME.
!
SHOULDN'T YOU CALL THE POLICE?
HELL NO!
I'M NOT GONNA TURN OVER THE GUY WHO MANAGED TO ACTUALLY INJURE ME.
GRR

I AIN'T GONNA SETTLE FOR LEAVING HIM HALF-DEAD.
...NEXT TIME I SEE HIM...
!
eek!
...
IT'S TRUE, ABOUT THE STALKER.
THAT'S WHY THE BACKSTAGE IS A RESTRICTED AREA.
AND YET YOU GOT IN. FOR A SECOND WE THOUGHT THE ACTUAL GUY HAD MANAGED TO GET IN.
OH, RIGHT...
Sorry about that.

THEY DIDN'T WANT TO DEAL WITH ANY PROBLEMS RIGHT BEFORE A CRITICAL MAJOR-LABEL DEBUT.
SO MIIKE TALKED TO MR. KARIYA, FROM THE LABEL, AND HIRED SOME SECURITY STAFF, BASICALLY.
WOW.
ALTHOUGH IT WAS MORE A REQUEST FROM THE OTHER BAND MEMBERS.
ESPE-CIALLY MIIKE AND MORI.
THE OTHER MEMBERS ?
HE'S MANAGED TO ONLY INJURE SAEKI, PRETTY MUCH...
WHAT ?!
IT'S REALLY PUZZLING, ACTUALLY
SO IS IT, LIKE, A CRAZED FAN?
NOBODY'S ACTUALLY SEEN THE STALKER YET.
THEY'VE EVEN HIRED EXTRA SECURITY, AND YET ONLY SAEKI HAS SEEN THE MAN...?
THERE ARE EVEN RUMORS THAT IT'S SOMEONE ON STAFF.
...

COULD IT BE..
r r r i n g
Greater Kanto Public Welfare Ministry Narcotics Control Division
klik
GREATER KANTO PUBLIC WELFARE MINISTRY NARCOTICS CONTROL DIVISION, HELLO?
MIKA?
OH, SURE, HANG ON A SEC...
IT'S MIYOSHI!
...

I ASSUME YOU'RE LOOKING INTO THE GIRL ON YOUR END.
OF COURSE. YOU KNOW, WHEN I CAN GET TO IT, WHEN I'M NOT DOING REAL WORK.
REAL WORK ?!
hmph
DIDN'T YOU SAY YOU'D HAVE THE INVESTIGATION DONE "IN A JIFFY"?
I THINK YOU'RE CONFUSING "ONLY" AND "ALREADY."
IT'S ONLY BEEN TWO DAYS, YOU KNOW.
WELL...
DO YOU HAVE PROOF ?
SKRITCH SKRITCH
WILL YOU TAKE THIS A LITTLE MORE SERIOUSLY?! WE'RE GONNA GET AN ARREST, YOU KNOW!
C'MON MIYO-SHI.
SIGH
I CAN'T BE SURE, BUT THERE'S DEFINITELY A POSSIBILITY THAT HE'S ON SOMETHING.
WEREN'T YOU LOOKING FOR SOMEONE NAMED SEITO KANZAKI ?
HALLUCI-NATING ?
NOT YET, BUT...
...THE BAND MEMBER I'M ONTO NOW HAS THIS DELUSION OF VICTIMIZATION. HE MAY BE HALLUCI-NATING.

DO OO M
!!
Eek!
WELL, YEAH, BUT THAT'S BEEN KINDA ...
wish
THE FOOL'S TAKING A DETOUR.
hmph
HA HA, HE'S ALWAYS DETOURING.
tap
tap
...
sigh
BEEEP
BEEEP
HOW'S MIYOSHI? WAS HE DOING OKAY?
HERE YOU GO, HERE'S THE LOCATION AND CALL HISTORY OF THE PHONE THAT KASHIWAGI GIRL USED.
Have fun!
ta-daaa
...

I JUST WANT TO FINISH THIS POINTLESS CASE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
hmph
SHURE, WHATEVER.
THAT'S WHY I'M RUSHING TO GET THE FACTS, THAT'S ALL.
snerk
poke
YOU'RE SO SILLY, LYING AND SAYING YOU'RE WORKING ON THE CASE WHEN YOU'RE NOT DOING REAL WORK.
I'M NOT LYING.
ow...
THE PHONE NUMBER THAT CALLED THE TIP IN WAS...A PUBLIC PHONE IN SHINJUKU?
YEAH, DEFINITELY WE TRACED THE NUMBER THAT CAME IN ON THE CALLER ID TO MAKE SURE
WHY A PUBLIC PHONE?
TAP TAP
MAYBE SHE LOST HER CELL PHONE, OR IT GOT STOLEN.. OR MAYBE SHE NEVER HAD ONE TO BEGIN WITH.
!
NOBODY USES THEM NOWADAYS WHATEVER THE REASON WHY CALL FROM A PUBLIC PHONE INSTEAD OF USING A CELL PHONE?
hmm... I DUNNO
ESPECIALLY WHEN YOU'RE CORNERED?

Time
Number Called
09/xx 09 10
03(xxxx)xxxx
16 40
03(xOOx)
Unused
!
...SO WHY IS IT GOING UNUSED AT THIS TIME?
THIS PUBLIC PHONE'S IN A HIGH-TRAFFIC AREA.
learn
THIS LOG IS ODD.
WHAT'S ODD ABOUT IT?
AT THIS BUSY TIME OF DAY...
hiSSS
YOU'VE GOT A LOT OF NERVE MAKING PERSONAL PHONE CALLS, ROOKIE.
eeek!
...
aack
YOU'RE FIRED !!
NO!

I HAD TO MAKE THE CALL, IT WAS REALLY IMPORTANT! I WON'T DO IT AGAIN, I SWEAR, SO PLEASE!
...
UM, ASUKA, YOU GOT A SECOND ?
ABOUT THE BOX-OFFICE TICKETS FOR TODAY ...
glare
...
perk
...
OH, THAT'S IN THE GREEN ROOM.
WE DIDN'T HAVE ENOUGH COPIES OF THE TICKETS, SO WE'RE LOOKING FOR THE ORIGINALS ...
THE GREEN ROOM, WHERE THE BAND MEMBERS ARE!!
glintz
Yes!
I'LL GET THE ORIGINALS AND MAKE THE COPIES!
WHA
dash
WAIT, YOU!
!

...THREE MINUTES.
If you screw up you really are fired.
!!
DASH
!
whish
KLINK
THE ORIGINALS ARE IN FRONT OF THE MIRROR IN THE FILE CASE
YOUR TIME LIMIT IS. .

...
I CAN'T LET THIS CHANCE TO GET INTO THE BAND'S PRIVATE ROOM SLIP AWAY!
huff
huff
huff
HUFF
HUFF
DDMT
DDMT

I'LL SHOW YOU!
DO YOU HAVE PROOF?
click
KA-
...
The originals.
...
KA-THUNK
stagger

shrug
!
...

...!
GOOD WORK.
YOUR JOB'S STILL HANGING BY A THREAD.
Lurk
DON'T CRY. YOU STILL HAVE A JOB, RIGHT?
pat
YEAH ...
IT WAS MY ONLY CHANCE TO GET IN THE BACK ROOM, AND YET...
...I COULDN'T FIND A SINGLE SHRED OF EVIDENCE! ALAS!
BUT WHO ...?

KA chik
KA chik
!
WHICH MEMBER IS THE ONE WHO'S SO ATTACHED TO A RUSTY CROSS ...?
...
KA chik
YOU!
REEE
!
SQUEEE

WHA
DAMN ...
WHAM
!
!
WHOA!
SAEKI SAID HE GOT OUT!
takk
takk
WHAT HAPPENED ?

THE STALKER!
LOOK, I'M ASKING YOU.
MURMUR
ARE YOU SURE NOBODY CAME IN THE BACK ENTRANCE ?!
PERV
NO, NOBODY !
SAEKI, DID YOU SEE THE GUY'S FACE?
NOT... NOT CLEARLY.

I GUESS IT'S GOOD YOU GOT OFF WITH A LIGHT INJURY. STILL, AT SUCH AN IMPORTANT TIME...
YEAH, IT'S SICKENING.
...
RED WRITING... BLOOD? NOT A HALLUCINATION?

...
I DON'T WANT TO THINK ABOUT IT, BUT...
IF NOBODY CAME IN THE BACK ENTRANCE, THEN DOES THAT MEAN THE STALKER'S SOMEBODY ON STAFF ...?

WE'VE GOT A LITTLE TIME BEFORE THE SHOW, SO LET'S JUST CHILL, HUH?
...
...
KAIDO SAEKI
DIE
DIE
DIE
DIE
DIE
!

WE'LL TALK ABOUT THIS AFTER THE SHOW.
IN THE MEANTIME, EVERYBODY BACK TO WORK.
SAEKI WILL BE OKAY.
...
...
KA-TUNK
...
BILL

AND HERE I THOUGHT YOU WENT OUTSIDE TO LOAD UP FOR ONCE. ACTUALLY YOU'RE ALL OUT.
JUST... GIVE IT TO ME.
...
grab
SKREEEEE
THREE DAYS TO GO!

Gulp

KEEE
!
HM?

HE STOPPED SINGING!
...
!
IT'S HIM ...
KRRK

Act.31

KAIDO SAEKI ...
STILL CAN'T FIND IT, CAN YOU?

EEEEEK
KRASSH
!
WHAT THE HELL HAPPENED OUT THERE?
WE'RE LUCKY NO ONE WAS INJURED, BUT THROWING THE MIC STAND INTO THE AUDIENCE...
...WELL, IT RUINED THE CONCERT, DIDN'T IT?
HE WAS THERE
WHAT?

THE STALKER.
!!
HE WAS TRYING TO KILL ME. I CAN TELL.
...
!
IF I HADN'T DONE SOMETHING, HE WOULD'VE SOME DEBUT THAT WOULD HAVE BEEN
WAIT, DO YOU MEAN...
sluff
...
USE IT FOR SELF-DEFENSE
!
shf

BUT YOU GOTTA PROMISE ME.
YOU GOTTA MAKE IT THROUGH THE LAST TWO SHOWS. AND...
GOOD GOD, WHAT ARE YOU THINKING?
IT'S FINE, ALL RIGHT?
...
IF IT MAKES YOU FEEL ANY BETTER.
...
...YOU GOTTA USE LESS, EXCEPT FOR CONCERTS.
HUH?
...AN ACCI-DENT?

OKAY, UNDERSTOOD.
...
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
KA CHAK
I FIGURED IT OUT.
WHY THAT PHONE BOOTH HAS BEEN UNUSED FOR SO LONG...
KA-THUNK
LET'S HEAR IT.
I...I ALMOST CAN'T BELIEVE IT...
August
SHIFF
HERE...
SHF
!

DO YOU REMEMBER THAT TRUCK ACCIDENT IN KABUKI-CHO THE DAY BEFORE YESTERDAY ?
THERE WAS ANOTHER BIG ACCIDENT THAT DAY, SO THE ARTICLE WAS PRETTY SMALL...
BUT THE GIRL'S NAME ...
tup
KASHI-WAGI...
THE PHONE WAS DAMAGED IN THE ACCIDENT, SO IT'S BEEN OUT OF SERVICE EVER SINCE.
THE ACCIDENT, THE GIRL'S NAME, AND THE TIME THE PHONE WAS DISCON-NECTED ALL SEEM CONSISTENT WITH WHAT WE KNOW...
THERE'S MORE.
THE ACCIDENT TOOK PLACE DURING A BLACK FALL CONCERT, AND THAT PHONE IS THE ONE THAT'S CLOSEST TO THE CONCERT LOCATION
IT'S NATURAL TO THINK THAT THERE'S MORE THAN A LITTLE BIT OF A CONNECTION TO BLACK FALL.
...

I UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU'RE SAYING, BUT THE PROBLEM IS WHAT HAPPENED BEFORE THAT.
IF THE GIRL ON THE PHONE REALLY IS THIS KASHIWAGI ...
...THEN CAN WE PROVE THAT THE SEITO KANZAKI SHE WAS TALKING ABOUT HAS A CONNECTION TO BLACK FALL?
YEAH
NNJP
...WE NEED TO WAIT FOR MIYOSHI TO CONTACT US ABOUT THAT...
AND I NEED TO LOOK INTO THIS GIRL.
...
TAK TAK
ihg brrr
GREAT, FIRST HIM, THEN HER...
WOOOSH

GREATER KANTO PUBLIC WELFARE MINISTRY NARCOTIC'S CONTROL DIVISION, HELLO?
MOEMI... KASHIWAGI ...
MOEMI
SORRY, I COULDN'T GET YOU ANYTHING BUT A CHEAP ONE.
NO, IT'S OKAY, I'M HAPPY.
THANK YOU, ~~~!
I LOVE YOU!

I WON'T ALLOW YOU–
block
!
I WON'T ALLOW IT.
...
HUH ...?

krrk
MO... EMI...
hmph
!
... Mi...
SAEKI ...
shf
...
IT'S YUMI... I'M YUMI.
VVVRRR RRR
Asuka

KAN-ZAKI?
WHAT ABOUT HIM?
NEVER HEARD OF 'M. I DON'T THINK WE HAD ANY KANZAKI ON THE STAFF.
OH, ACTUALLY ...
IT WAS A FRIEND OF MINE THAT INTRODUCED ME TO THE BAND, AND HE WORKED AS STAFF A WHILE AGO... I THOUGHT...
KANZAKI, EH? HMM ...I THINK I'VE HEARD THAT NAME SOMEWHERE BEFORE...
REALLY ?!
SEE, THERE'S NO KANZAKI ON THE STAFF DUTY LIST.
...
staff
SORRY, CAN'T REMEM-BER!
E-heh!
YEAH, THE STAFF HASN'T REALLY CHANGED MUCH IN THE LAST SIX MONTHS
dun

HOW AM I SUPPOSE TO LOOK FOR A GUY WHO'S NOT A BAND MEMBER AND NOT ON THE STAFF?
Did you find Seito Kanzaki ?
sighhh
ARE YOU SURE THEY WERE ON OUR STAFF? NOT FROM ANOTHER BAND?
AND WHICH KIND OF NAME WAS IT, ANYWAY ?
"WHICH KIND?" WHAT DO YOU...
WELL, IT'S SHOW BIZ, AND THERE ARE STAFF MEMBERS WHO HAVE STAGE NAMES TOO, SOMETIMES, YEAH?
glint
A STAGE NAME!
LOTS OF THEM DON'T USE THEIR REAL NAMES.
!!
ESCAPING
YOU DON'T LOOK BUSY.
grab
twitch
!
Ack!

GO TO YUMI'S AND BRING SAEKI BACK, NOW!
Go!
sighh
JUST WHEN I HAVE TO START MY SEARCH FOR KANZAKI ALL OVER AGAIN...
Swish
Swish
HELLO ?
UH, THIS IS KASHIWAGI FROM BLACK FALL...
I'LL GO WAKE HIM UP, SO JUST WAIT HERE.
!
A CROSS PENDANT
WHAT IS IT ...?

OH, NOTHING..!
ANYBODY COULD BE WEARING A CROSS NOWADAYS I GUESS...
WELL, YOU'RE WORRIED ABOUT SOMETHING..
OH, JUST.. THAT'S A NICE CROSS, I WAS THINKING.
WHAT IS THAT, SARCASM?
hmph
HUH?
YOU'RE TRYING TO SAY I'M JUST LIKE ALL THE OTHER GIRLS RIGHT?
WHAT?! NO, I-
?!
WELL, I KNOW.
ANY GIRL THAT'S AFTER SAEKI KNOWS...
klink
...THAT HE LIKES CROSSES.
!

HEY...
SO... COULD THAT CROSS BE...?
THAT SAME QUESTION AGAIN...
DO YOU... DO YOU HAVE A YOUNGER SISTER?
!
I SURE DO.
NO, JUST AN OLDER SISTER, EIGHT YEARS OLDER THAN ME....
OH, I GUESS IT'S JUST A COINCIDENCE, THEN.
WHAT IS?
YOU'RE STAFF, AREN'T YOU? ARE YOU STUPID OR SOMETHING?

Kashiwagi Funeral

Intelligence Section
WHERE ARE YOU NOW?
I'M COMING BACK.
ihgg brrr
AND?
IT'S JUST LIKE I THOUGHT.
MOEMI KAGHIWAGI WAS DATING ONE OF THE MEMBERS OF BLACK FALL.
THE GUY WAS EVEN HER CHILDHOOD FRIEND.
UNDER-STOOD.
NOW WE WAIT... FOR MIYOSHI.
...
REEEE

KA-TUNK
SHF
bow
GOOD WORK, KASHIWAGI!
UH, THANKS.
WHAT'S WRONG?
BAD DREAMS.
WELL, YOU'RE EXHAUSTED.
JUST HANG ON UNTIL TOMORROW.
AFTER ALL, IT'S OUR LAST SHOW AS AN INDIE-
LOOK, WHATEVER.
DOSTO

JUST GIVE ME THE DRUGS.
...
C'MON, SAEKI, GIVE THE STUFF A REST LIKE YOU PROMISED
AND GIVE YOURSELF A REST- TOMOR- ROW'S THE LAST SHOW...
WHA
...
YOU'VE BEEN HALLUCI- NATING, HAVEN'T Y-
GRAB
IT'S BEEN WEARING OFF QUICKER, HASN'T IT?
PLUS...
AND YOU'VE DEFINITELY BEEN TAKING MORE...

YOU THINK I'M MESSED UP OR SOMETHIN'?
I'M WORRIED ABOUT YOU!
EITHER WAY, WHEN THE STUFF ISN'T WORKING AS WELL, YOU'RE THE ONE THAT LOSES, RIGHT?
WHAT I'M SAYING IS THAT WE DON'T HAVE ANY SHOWS FOR A WHILE, SO YOU SHOULD TAKE A BREAK.
...
MAYBE... YOU'RE RIGHT...
DASSH
WHA
beep beep beep
ihggg brrr
YOU'RE LATE.
IBU...

DID YOU FIND THE GIRL?
YEAH, AND SEITO KANZAKI, TOO.
I'VE GOT AN IDEA ABOUT THAT, AS WELL.
THE CRUCIAL POINT IS WHAT SHE SAID ABOUT THE DRUG USE.
IF WE CAN FIND IT, IT'LL BE TOMORROW BEFORE THE SHOW.
I CAN'T ORDER A BUST BASED ON YOUR GUESS.
THE TOUR ENDS TOMOR-ROW.
AFTER THAT, THE PROOF WILL BE GONE ALONG WITH EVERYTHING ELSE
TOMOR-ROW IS OUR ONLY SHOT.

BLACK FALL
"INDIES TODAY"
LAST SHOW
FOR US, FOR BLACK FALL, TODAY'S THE END, AND THE BEGINNING.
zhuff
SO LET'S ROCK!!
YEAHH!!

WHOOSH
SAEKI, WHEN THE STUFF TAKES EFFECT, GET OUT ON STAGE, OKAY?
CLAP CLAP
WE'LL BE WAITING.
FA-THUNK
...
PLIP
DRIPP
PLIPP

TODAY'S THE END AND THE BEGINNING, EH?
YOU!
shf
IT'S THE PERFECT DAY TO SETTLE THINGS ONCE AND FOR ALL!

?!
PLEASE, STOP IT, ~~~, I'M BEGGING YOU!
AAAAAAAGH!
WHO'S... THIS GIRL?
EW, IT'S MOEMI KASHIWAGI. IT'S MOEMI.

THE CROSS I GAVE HER...
YOU ANNOYING BITCH!
grabb
WHA
WHADDYA MEAN, ~~~?
DON'T DO IT, ~~TO!
~~ITO, PLEASE!
THIS IS KAIDO SAEKI. RIGHT, SAEKI?
C'MON, DITCH THIS CHICK AND TAKE THIS STUFF. WE'VE GOT A SHOW TO DO.
SEITO!
GET OUT, MOEMI.

KAIDO. I'M KAIDO SAEKI.
I'M NOT SEITO KANZAKI.
splassh !
wump
shlissh
Drug Addiction Counseling
Narcotics Control Division
03-XXXX-XXXX

I'M KASHI-WAGI ...

...
AAAGH!
!!
SHUT UP... SHUT UP! DON'T CRY!
THAT'S...I REMEMBER NOW, IT'S...

HEY, YOU.
...IT'S THE STALKER THAT WAS FOLLOWING ME AROUND
I GUESS YOU FINALLY FOUND ME.
DIE KAIDO SAEKI
DIE KAIDO SAEKI
IT'S... ME...?
IF I'M NOT KAIDO SAEKI, THEN MOEMI DIDN'T DIE...
KAIDO SAEKI CAN *DIE*, FOR ALL I CARE!
IT CAN'T BE...!

THE GUY THAT YOU SEE ON STAGE,THAT'S THE REAL ME!
YOU CAN'T BE ME. KAIDO SAEKI WOULDN'T CRY OVER SOME DEAD GROUPIE!
I LOVE YOU, SEITO...
THERE IS NO SEITO KANZAKI ANYMORE!
DASSH
...YOU'RE THE ONE THAT'S GONNA DIE!
SEITO KANZAKI...
I'LL NEVER ACCEPT IT.
SHUCK
I WON'T ACCEPT IT!
A WEAKER SELF...

...I WON.
I BEAT DOWN THAT BASTARD INSIDE OF ME, AND I WON.
KAIDO SAEKI'S THE ONE EVERYBODY WANTS, NOT SEITO KANZAKI.
!
IF I'M GONNA BE MYSELF, I HAVE TO BE KAIDO SAEKI.
IT'S OUR LAST SHOW!
YEAH, FROM HERE ON OUT, IT'S THE TRUE BEGINNING OF KAIDO SAEKI. I'M KAIDO SAEKI.
SEITO ...

DON'T RUN, PLEASE ...
THROB

SAEKI!
nuh
IT'S ALL YOU, B...
MO... E... MI...
HE COL-LAPSED!
CALL AN AMBU-LANCE!

SORRY, I COULD ONLY GET YOU A CHEAP ONE.
IT'S OKAY.
THANK YOU, SEITO. I LOVE YOU.
SEITO, EH?
YOU'RE JUST NEVER GONNA CALL ME KAIDO SAEKI, ARE YOU?
BUT YOU'RE SEITO, AREN'T YOU?
YOU'LL ALWAYS BE MY SAD, LONELY LITTLE SEITO KANZAKI.
BUT ...
...I LOVE ALL OF YOU, EVEN THE SAD PARTS.
MO.
... EMI...

KLINK
YES ...
UNDER-STOOD.
SEITO KANZAKI IS ALL RIGHT APPAR-ENTLY.
...
CLACK
...I'M SORRY.
IF ONLY I'D REALIZED HE WAS HALLUCINATING BECAUSE OF THE HEAVY DRUG USE A LITTLE SOONER.
YOU DID WHAT YOU COULD.

WE ARRESTED THE OTHER BAND MEMBERS FOR POSSESSION.
HE DIDN'T DIE WE MADE THE BUST BEFORE THE SHOW, JUST LIKE YOU SAID, AND IT WAS THE RIGHT CALL.
THAT'S GOOD ENOUGH.
SHE REALLY LOVED HIM, THOUGH, DIDN'T SHE.
SHE RISKED HER LIFE TO GET HIM BACK FROM THE DRUGS.
HEY, IBU.
...
GUESS YOU CAN'T WRITE OFF LOVE ENTIRELY, CAN YOU?
...I GUESS NOT.

Act.32

WOW!
THE CAKE LOOKS DELICIOUS!
DID YOU MAKE THIS, MARI?
YES, I DID, KAI...
THAT'S GREAT! YOU'RE SO DOMESTIC, MARI!
OH, I'M NOT REALLY...
ACTU-ALLY, I'VE...
...I'VE ALWAYS BEEN LOOKING FOR SOMEONE LIKE YOU.
!

MARI...
WILL YOU GO OUT WITH ME, WITH AN EYE TOWARD MARRIAGE?
KAI...
I-IF, YOU'D HAVE SOMEONE LIKE ME...
Christmas with a Happy Ending
AND IT'LL TURN OUT...
...JUST LIKE THAT. IF YOU CAN COOK, YOU'LL PICK UP POINTS, EASY.
GLEAM
IT'S CHRISTMAS, AFTER ALL.
WOW!!
chop chop chop

AND IT'S FOR CUSTOMERS WITH JUST SUCH DREAMS THAT THIS ITEM IS ON SALE TODAY!
WITH THIS, MARRIAGE IS A GUARANTEE. 3,500 YEN WITH TAX!
Marriage
For beginners
EASY CAKE!
I'LL TAKE IT!
WHA
ACTUALLY, THAT WAS A JOKE.
...ND THOUGH IT'S A BIT EARLY, THIS IS A CHRISTMAS PRESENT FROM ME.
teehee
snug
sobs
MIKA...
I'M GONNA DO IT!
THIS TIME, I'M GONNA MARRY MY LI'L KAI!
DOOM
THE HELL WITH SOCIAL RULES!
Yay!
HAIL SANTA!
THIS YEAR, ONE WOMAN IS MAKING ONE LAST RUN AT ROMANCE.
SUCH A SWEET CHRISTMAS!

Her maiden's heart afire as always this night before Christmas Eve.
The Greater Kanto Public Welfare Ministry Narcotics Control Division's brilliant analyst, Mari Kuzui.
whish
whish
whisk
whish
Mari, what're you doing!
Keep the noise down
Oh, little brother!
Her younger brother Kota
glint
ZOOM
You want your big sister to get married, don't you?
W-well, yeah...
Sis, your face is huge.
The next day was December 24th, Christmas Eve.
I-it's finished ...

Merry Christ
IT'S PERFECT!
Wait!
NO! I HAVE TO GET DRESSED UP!
Must hurry!
WHA
GETTING DRESSED UP IN THE MORNING ...?
...
TAKK
TAKK
TAKK
Greater Kanto
ublic Welfare
Ministry
Narcotics
Control
Division

GOOD MORNING!
WHAM
GOOD MORNING KUZUL YOU'RE ALL DRESSED-UP TODAY!
...
"Dressed-up?"
stare
blush
nod nod
Oh he'll be shocked to it again.
WAA
mmph
..A CHRIST-MAS PRESENT FOR KA-
!
OH, COULLD THAT BE...
WAA
IF YOU WANT TO GIVE THAT TO KAI, IT'S NOT GONNA HAPPEN.
fidget
Um.
...

WELL, KAI IS ON A STAKEOUT WITH HAL RIGHT NOW ...
KAJI...
TELL HER!
Hah.
SNIRK
Mamiii!
...AND THEY WON'T BE BACK FOR SEVERAL DAYS.
dum dum duuuu—uum
shf
GLOOOOOM
WHAT'S THIS?
WHY ARE THE DOCUMENTS THEY SHOULD'VE TAKEN WITH THEM STILL HERE?
TINK
WHAT A TERRIBLE PROBLEM!
I WONDER IF SOMEONE WILL TAKE IT TO THEM FOR ME?
...

I SHALL DO IT...
WHAT? ARE YOU SURE? IT'S SO FAR, I FEEL BAD ...
stare
...
NO, I SHALL DO IT!
GOOD LUCK, MS. KUZUI!
FOOH
SERIOUSLY, SENDING FAKE DOCUMENTS IS REALLY GOING TOO FAR..
iihg9 brrr
C'MON KAJI, EVEN I LIKE TO PLAY SANTA CLAUS ONCE IN A WHILE.
HUH?
I'M COMMENCING THE OPERATION.
... ALL RIGHT.
HMM... THREE HOURS WITH A SHORT-CUT ...
EVEN SO...

NO! IT IS FOR THE SAKE OF TRUE LOVE!
FOOD!
HELP! THIEF!
EEEEEK!
WHA
!
WHO
!!!
SPIN

!
OH MY, ARE YOU HURT ...?
uRggh
AAAA

HM?
OH ...
I SHALL NOT SUFFER THOSE WHO BLOCK THE PATH OF LOVE!
AAAGH!!
zhup
AND THAT'S THE VICTIM?
!
BUT I NEED TO MAKE A REPORT. SO, I'M SORRY, BUT WILL YOU COME WITH ME?
YOU CERTAINLY DID QUITE A GOOD DEED!
Well I'll be heading way then.
GRAB

Um...
Uh
EXCUSE ME, MISS.
Washed her face and hair
I'M SORRY THAT YOU GOT BEAT UP ON MY ACCOUNT...
WERE YOU GOING TO A PARTY, OR...?
OH, I'M FINE...
WAIT A MOMENT.
LOVE IS ALL THE SWEETER WHEN IT'S HARD-WON.

IT'S ALL I CAN DO FOR YOU... HAVE FUN AT YOUR PARTY, DEAR.
granny.
FLUFF
HERE, TRY THIS...
SEE, IT LOOKS LOVELY ON YOU.
Not that it's party, but.
KA-THUNK
KA-THUNK
KA-THUNK
WHEW, IT'S WARM IN HERE.
mm. warm
PSSSHH
WUMP
WHA
!
Sweet
Heart

THAT WAS A CLOSE ONE!
Damn close.
I'VE GOT TO GET THIS TO KAI SAFELY, ONE WAY OR ANOTHER...
...?
Glance
!!
Peek

!!!
GRABB
ENEMY OF WOMEN!
YOU DIRTY SON OF A...
THIS, TOO, I CANNOT FOR-GIVE!
SHE SAVED ME!
thup
NO REPORTS, PLEASE!
GRABB
whu

Railway Police
WHAT A WONDERFUL CHRISTMAS!
OH, SO YOU'RE DELIVERING SOME CHRISTMAS CAKE ...
SO, WHERE'S ...
...THE CAKE? I'D SURE LIKE TO SEE IT.
dAdum
!!!!
beam beam
NOOOOO!
THAT PERVERTED BASTARD! GODDAMMIT!
stump
NO, THE STATION WORKERS ARE LOOKING FOR IT RIGHT NOW!

ATTENTION ...
...
UM... GOOD THING THEY FOUND THE CAKE!
...
...OPERATIONS ON ALL JR RAIL LINES ARE CURRENTLY SUSPENDED DUE TO EXTREME WEATHER CONDITIONS. PASSENGERS REQUIRING...
HOW FAR IS IT TO YOUR BOY-FRIEND'S HOUSE?
SIX STOPS ...
OH, IN THAT CASE...
SURELY SOME-HOW ...
SIX STOPS ON THE EXPRESS.
It's 23 stops on the local train!
M-MISS KUZUI!
grab

PLEASE DON'T GIVE UP!
CHRISTMAS EVE ISN'T OVER YET!
LET'S GET THIS HOMEMADE CAKE DELIVERED! HE'LL BE SO HAPPY!
!
You've got cream on your face, my little kitten
PLAYING THE MALE ROLE
SWOON
yes!
WHA
!
IF I CANNOT GO BY TRAIN...

I STILL HAVE MY FEET!
That's the worst!
Go for it!
Eah!
SO, "LOVE IS ALL THE SWEETER WHEN IT'S HARD-WON," EH?
DON'T TELL ME YOU SET UP THE SNOW, DID YOU?
tug
tug
sigh
CERTAINLY NOT! THAT WAS JUST A HAPPY COINCIDENCE. BUT...
...IT WOULDN'T BE INTERESTING AT ALL WITHOUT SOME DRAMA!
sniff
MARI... SHE REALLY HIT ME. LIKE, HARD.
sniffle
Ahaha
YEAH, YOU KINDA OVERDID IT
pat
pat

Alrighty I'm all done here so I'm headin' out. Good luck!
there's more?
aw man.
FINAL PRESENT, GO!
AND THE BEST PRESENT IS YET TO COME!
teehee
THIS SNOW IS NOTHING!
THE HIGHER THE HURDLES, THE HIGHER THE FLAMES OF LOVE!
ooooo
sluff
ACK!
sluffsluff
ANYONE WHO WOULD BLOCK THE PATH OF MY LOVE SHALL SURELY...
CHK
heh heh heh heh heh
meaww
?!!
sluff sluff
WHA

I AM A WOMEN WHO LIVES FOR LOVE.
meow
GREAT, NOW THAT DAMNED SANTA'S PUT ANOTHER CLICHÉD OBSTACLE IN MY PATH.
!!!
PLEASE TAKE ME HOME
meow
I DON'T HAVE TIME TO WORRY ABOUT YOU...
Marvision
twip
twip
MARI... IT'S SO COLD...
FINE, I GIVE UP...
shiver
shiver
shiver
PLEASE TAKE ME HOME
HEART
throbb
!!!!
so small.

purr
purr
I GUESS MY BIG CHRISTMAS MARRIAGE IS ALL WASHED UP ANYWAY.
...
WHAT'S THAT?
YOU HUNGRY, LITTLE GUY?
likk
likk
munch
THIS IS ALL I HAVE ON HAND RIGHT NOW.
MY APOLO-GIES.
munch
much

!
ding dong
MARI ?
huh?
AW, MAN...
HEY, IT IS YOU!
sh
WHAT'RE YOU DOING ALL THE WAY OUT HERE?

OH, I'M JUST OUT PICKING UP SOME FOOD.
shuff
KAI, YOU... WHAT ...?

YOU'LL CATCH A COLD WEARING THAT.
fluff
!
KAI ...!
Blush
OH!
A KITTEN! HOW CUTE!
C'mere, you!
eeek!

that tickles!
BA-BUMP
KAI... MY DARLING!
DDR
DM
UH, MARI?
ARE YOU GOING TO KEEP THIS LITTLE GUY, MARI?

glom
I WILL! I'M KEEPING THEM!
I'M GONNA KEEP THEM BOTH!
HUH?
what do you mean, both!?
HMM...LOOKS LIKE SHE DIDN'T QUITE MANAGE TO CONFESS HER LOVE.
marriage is still a long ways off.
glom
OOF
get off me! quit leaning on me
sigh
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING HERE?
OPERATION SUCCESSFUL, BUT...
CHIEF'S ORDERS.
...NO REAL PROGRESS, YET.
HMM...IT'S RATHER HARD PLAYING SANTA, KAJI.
MAYBE YOU SHOULD DO YOUR JOB, SANTA!
Santa! More like Satan!
KRRK
KRRK